

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 19 and 27-36 remain in the application. Each of the independent claims has been amended to incorporate the limitations that had been in each of claims 20-26. Accordingly, claims 20-26 have been canceled. Additionally, each of the independent claims has been amended to include the limitation "wherein the ring-shaped projection is a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion."

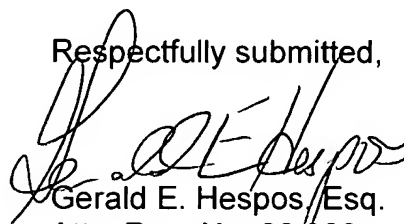
The undersigned attorney for the applicant thanks Examiner Ngo for the courtesies extended during the course of the interview on November 16, 2006. Counsel presented the Examiner with a proposed Amendment prior to the interview. Counsel then demonstrated nozzles that have the claimed ring-shaped projection and nozzles that have no such ring-shaped projection. The Examiner appreciated that drops clearly run down the side of the container on the nozzle that has no ring-shaped projection. However, drops did not run down the side of the container on those containers that had the ring-shaped projection according to the subject invention. Counsel and the Examiner then reviewed the locations in the original specification that emphasized the importance of having an efficient formation of drops and avoiding having the drops run down the side of the container. In particular, problems with the prior art that were demonstrated during the interview are illustrated in FIGS. 15A-15C of the subject application and are described in paragraph 0008. Advantages of the subject invention, on the other hand, are described in paragraphs 0010 and 0054-0056.

The Examiner understood and appreciated the invention but emphasized her responsibility to interpret claims broadly as part of the examination process. The Examiner

concluded that the extreme lower corner of the arcuate top of the nozzle shown in Herrick et al. could be considered a ring-shaped projection when that term is broadly interpreted. The Examiner suggested that the differences between the prior art and the subject invention would be much more clear if the ring-shaped projection was defined as being "a flange protruding at the bottom end of the convex arcuate portion." The Examiner's proposal has been reviewed with the assignee of the subject application, and the assignee agrees with the Examiner that the proposed terminology accurately describes an important feature of the subject invention.

All of the independent claims remaining in the application have been amended in accordance with the subject matter discussed during the interview, including the specific language proposed by the Examiner. It is believed that the amended claims distinguish patentably over the prior art and that a Notice of Allowance should be issued. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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